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PTO/SB/18 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002, OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)		Attorney Docket Number	717119.466
<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)		First Named Inventor	Hartwick, Ty Albert
COMPLETE IF KNOWN			
Application Number		10/708,439	
Filing Date		March 3, 2004	
Group Art Unit		Not yet known	
Examiner Name		Not yet known	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF EXACT WEIGHT GROUND MEAT

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YY)

03/03/04

as United States Application Number or PCT International (if applicable).

Application Number

10/708, 439

and was amended on (MM/DD/YY)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.
		<input type="checkbox"/>

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SENT TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Design, Washington, DC 20231.



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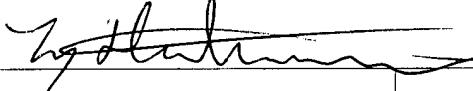
PTO/SB/18 (08-00)

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label		27128	OR <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below
Name Kevin M. Kercher			
Address Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP			
Address 720 Olive Street, Suite 2400			
City St. Louis		State Missouri	ZIP 63101
Country US		Telephone 314-345-6000	Fax 314-345-6060
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.			
NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any]) Ty Albert		Family Name Or Surname Hartwick	
Inventor's Signature			Date 3/14/04
Residence City: Sioux City	State IA	Country US	Citizenship US
Mailing Address 3828 Forest View Avenue			
Mailing Address			
City Sioux City	State IA	ZIP 51103	Country US
NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name Or Surname	
Inventor's Signature			Date
Residence City:	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
Mailing Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.			

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JUN 18 2004

PTO/SB/81 (09-03)

Approved for use through 11/30/2005. OMB 0651-0035
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**POWER OF ATTORNEY
and
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
INDICATION FORM**

Application Number	10/708,439
Filing Date	March 3, 2004
First Named Inventor	Hartwick, Ty Albert
Group Art Unit	Not yet known
Examiner Name	Not yet known
Attorney Docket Number	717119.466

I hereby appoint:

 Practitioners at Customer Number 27128**OR** Practitioner(s) named below:

Name	Registration Number

as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the above-identified application to:

 The address associated with the above-mentioned Customer Number: 27128**OR** The address associated with Customer Number:**OR**

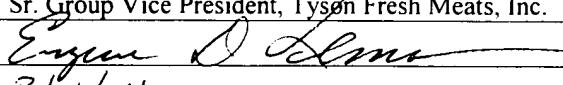
<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	Kevin M. Kercher Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP				
Address	720 Olive Street				
Address	24th Floor				
City	St. Louis	State	Missouri	Zip	63101
Country	United States				
Telephone	314-345-6000	Fax	314-345-6060		

I am the:

 Applicant/Inventor. Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.7.1.

Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name	Eugene D. Leman Sr. Group Vice President, Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.
Signature	
Date	3/11/04

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

 *Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



JUN 18 2004

JC18

PTO/SB/96 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: Ty Albert HartwickApplication No./Patent No.: 10/708,439 Filed/Issue Date: March 3, 2004Entitled: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF EXACT WEIGHT GROUND MEATTyson Fresh Meats, Inc. a Corporation
(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

- the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest; or
- an assignee of less than the entire right, title and interest.
The extent (by, percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ %

in the patent application/patent identified above by virtue of either:

A. An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

OR

B. A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.
2. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.
3. From: _____ To: _____
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

Copies of assignments or other documents in the chain of title are attached.

[NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., the original assignment document or a true copy of the original document) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, if the assignment is to be recorded in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

3/11/04
Date

Eugene D. Leman

Typed or printed name

Signature

Sr. Group Vice President, Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.

Title

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



PATENT
Mtr # 717119.466

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, Ty Albert Hartwick, a resident of Sioux City, Iowa, (hereinafter referred to as "Assignor"), is the inventor of a certain new and useful invention relating to a SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF EXACT WEIGHT GROUND MEAT for which application for Letters Patent has been made as U.S. Patent Application No. 10/708,439 that was filed on March 3, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Assignor is the owner and in full possession of the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to any and all Letters Patent that may be granted therefor; and

WHEREAS, Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, (hereinafter referred to as "Assignee"), having its principal office and place of business at 800 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 836, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, 57049, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to any and all Letters Patent that may be granted therefor; and

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (U.S. \$1.00) and other valuable considerations to Assignor paid by said Assignee, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Assignor does hereby sell, assign and transfer unto said Assignee, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to any and all Letters Patent, both United States and foreign, that may be granted therefor, together with any and all continuations, divisions, or reissues, and Assignor does hereby authorize and request the United States Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue in accordance with this Assignment any and all Letters Patent that may be granted, either on said application or otherwise for said invention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his hand and seal.

Dated: 3/11/04

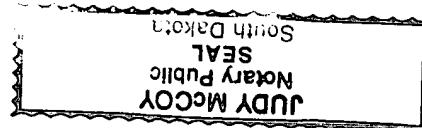
Ty Albert Hartwick
Ty Albert Hartwick

STATE OF South Dakota)
) ss.
COUNTY OF Union)

On this 11 day of March, 2004, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public within and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared Ty Albert Hartwick to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act and deed.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto attached my hand and notarial seal, at the County and State aforesaid on the day and year last above written.

Judy McCoy
Notary Public



My Commission Expires:

1-9-2010